

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that the application is in condition for allowance. As requested, the Applicants are transmitting herewith a certified copy of the priority document and oath and declaration. The Examiner has also stated that "The information disclosure statement filed 3/21/2001 is missing from the file." However, the record reflects that no information disclosure statement was filed on that date. The information disclosure statement filed in this case was filed on 6/20/2001. Applicants are transmitting herewith a copy of that information disclosure statement and a USPTO postcard confirming the USPTO's receipt of the same so as to confirm that the Examiner has, indeed, considered the reference cited in the 6/20/2001 information disclosure statement. The Applicants also respectfully request that the Examiner provide for the record a signed and initialed copy of form 1449 submitted on 6/20/2001.

COMMENTS ON STATEMENTS OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The Applicants express appreciation for indicating that the present application is in condition for allowance. The Applicants note the Examiner's reasons for allowance, but further comment that the art of record, alone and in combination, fails to show, teach or suggest the entirety of each combination of steps and/or structure recited by each of the allowed claims of the present invention.

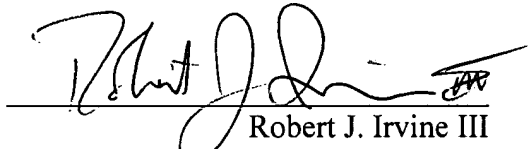
The Applicants respectfully submit that the reasons for allowance are only warranted in instances in which the record of the prosecution as a whole does not make clear his or her reasons for allowing a claim or claims. In the present case, however, the

Applicants believe that the specification and claims of record do make the reasons for allowance clear.

Further, Applicants respectfully note that this statement is a paraphrase that includes elements of the allowed claims of the application. Therefore, these reasons for allowance are not limiting with respect to each and every allowed claim of the application. In this regard, Applicants respectfully submit that each claim of the application should be construed in view of the elements claimed and not limited in scope to the specific elements referenced in the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance. Therefore, the Applicants submit that the statement by the Examiner is unwarranted and request the Examiner to withdraw the reasons for allowance from the present case.

Respectfully Submitted,

February 17, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Irvine III", is written over a horizontal line.

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